

5-1980

## South Union Messenger (May 1980)

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# The South Union Messenger

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May, 1980

On Mother's Day, May 11, the South Union Shaker Museum will open for its 21st annual season. Highlighting the opening will be the photographic exhibit "A Pictorial View of Kentucky Women 1880-1930." The photographs, from the University of Kentucky Special Collections and the University of Louisville archives, will be on exhibit through May 26.

Among the new acquisitions on display will be an unusual churn used at South Union and a loom used in making chair tapes. Also new is a long wooden seed sower which allowed a worker to scatter seeds evenly over a wide area at one passing.

On view also will be a newly arranged herb exhibit planned by a committee of Western Kentucky University folklore students.

## A NEW LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. Frances Harris, Franklin, Ky., has taken a thousand-dollar life membership in honor of "Deedy Hall who has worked so long and so hard on the South Union project."

## THE SOUTH UNION SUNDIAL

Through the generosity of the Helm Family Foundation of New York, the South Union sundial is being reproduced.

With the closing of South Union in 1922, the original 1876 dial, made by Elder Harvey L. Eads, was taken to the parent society of Mt. Lebanon, New York. When that society closed, the dial became the property of the nearby Old Chatham Shaker Museum.

Through the courtesy of Robert Meader, former director of Old Chatham, Professor Herbert Wiskey, Elmira, New York, made a rubbing of the dial face. Under the direction of Susan Keig, Chicago, a photographic copy of the rubbing was made to be used by the stone mason, Stanley Kelly, in hand cutting the replica. The bronze gnomon has been cast. Although the sundial will not be ready on opening day, it should be in the Centre House yard in a short time.



## THE SHAKER ANTIQUE MALL

The mall dealers have many new items in their booths. Open daily all year (except national holidays), the mall has a growing clientele. No admission.

The South Union post office can provide you with books of stamps. An increase in the post office business will help keep the only remaining Shaker post office (established 1826) a functioning part of South Union.

Both the mall and museum shops are offering several new items such as the Egner signed metal Shaker miniatures, hand stitched welcome mats, tree of life pins and necklaces, and several new book titles.

## IN MEMORY

A December donation from the Helm Family was made in memory of J. Blakey Helm of Louisville. As a child Mr. Helm lived in Auburn near South Union. His father, Dr. T. O. Helm, often made professional visits to the Shaker society.

Consideration is being given in determining a significant way to use the memorial fund.

## OTHER 1979-80 DONATIONS

### Items:

Three large walnut work tables from the Gaston Coke estate.

Shaker ladies' underwear by Roy Stump

Eads' "Shaker Sermons" 1884, 3rd edition, printed at South Union. By Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Hesse, Enfield, N.H.

A bronze plaque to be placed on the Centre House, indicating that the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. By Mr. and Mrs. John Martin Smith, Auburn, Ind.

A churn used at South Union. By The Rev. and Mrs. W. Gant, Drakesboro, Ky.

A reproduced Shaker seed box. By Steve Kisler, Cincinnati.

Four microfilm reels of Shaker Manuscripts. By William Congdon, Philadelphia.

A pictorial, Shaker bicentennial plate. By Harry L. Jackson, Bowling Green.

### Monetary Donations:

Flo Morse, Bedford, N.Y.  
Rosemary Lawson, Kettering, Ohio  
Professor and Mrs. Herbert Wisbey, Elmira, N.Y.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Hines, Bowling Green  
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Peart, Bowling Green  
Mrs. Monroe Hall, Auburn  
Mrs. Claud Pottinger, Auburn  
Chase Manhattan Bank, a matching gift covering  
the membership of Edward Freeman, bank officer  
Citizens National Bank, Bowling Green  
Southern Deposit Bank, Russellville

New memberships have come from friends in Ohio,  
Michigan, California, New York, and elsewhere.

### A LOSS

It is with deep sadness that we record the death of  
Eloise "Tookey" Kemp, Russellville, a charter member and a  
dependable and enthusiastic volunteer.

### RESTORATION

Soon to be finished will be the cleaning of the Centre  
House limestone trim and the replacing of mortar where needed.

### SOUTH UNION IN PRINT

The front cover of the 1979 publication "The Shaker  
Way" by Charles Muller carries a color photograph of a  
Centre House interior. The book also carries a photo  
story on South Union.

The current issue of "The Shaker Messenger" contains  
four articles relating to the South Union Community. These  
are "The Guiding Lights of South Union's Preservation,"  
"A Look into the Kitchen at South Union," "Kentucky's  
Older Brothers," and "The Benedictines and the Shakers."  
The front cover shows an interesting shot of the Centre  
House and the restored well house. The Messenger is \$1.50  
and can be ordered from South Union.

The July-August issue of "Back Home in Kentucky" will  
carry a photo-essay on Shakertown at South Union.



## A 1500TH BIRTHDAY

On April 25 St. Marks' Priory celebrated the 480 AD beginning of the Order of St. Benedict. Members of the St. Marks community and their guests used the Centre House dining room and kitchen areas for a day-long program of lectures and slide shows.

## THE ELMIRA SHAKER SEMINAR

Last July some thirty members of the Elmira Seminar met for two days at South Union. St. Marks graciously provided housing and breakfast.

It was heartwarming to have many of the seminar visitors say, "This is our kind of place."

## THE 1980 SOUTH UNION FESTIVAL

This year's festival planning is in the capable hands of a committee chaired by Susan Taylor, who played Mother Ann in last year's production. The director is John Campbell, who has been the pageant technician for several years. Susan and John, with the help of others, have done considerable research during the past few months. They promise to bring some fresh changes to the script.

Meals will again be catered by the Heritage Restaurant of Russellville.

## ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees to the museum are now \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children six through twelve. Play tickets will be \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Rates are available to groups of ten or more when scheduled ahead.

Your membership card still admits a husband and wife or a single person and one guest. Perhaps this is the year you would like to raise your membership to help meet the inflationary operating expenses of the organization.